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BOOK REVIEW

PEST CONTROL: A Survey. Arthur Woods, Halsted Press, John Wiley & Sons, New York, 407 p. \$29.50. 1974.

This book can be recommended highly to all interested in the principles and methods of pest control. It is written as an introductory text, with carefully chosen examples of insect pests, diseases of plants, technological advances, and biological means of control. The author first defines pests and their control, as well as the economics of pest control and of methods used. Factors such as population density, death rate, and community stability are analyzed in the second chapter. The third chapter deals with the uses of chemical pesticides, as well as the economics of their production. Drawbacks of chemical control receive due attention in the fourth chapter. Biological control, including the use of insects, bacteria, viruses, fungi, higher plants, to mention the main ones, are outlined in the following 3 chapters, followed by newer approaches, such as sterilization, genetic control, pheromones, attractants, repellents, and the use of miscellaneous other control methods. Finally, integrated control is presented in proper perspective. The book is so written that it can be used not only by the professional scientist, interested in biology, agriculture, entomology, or ecology, but also by the general reader. To achieve this and not to oversimplify has been a difficult task solved by the author admirably. The book can be used as a text in university and college courses on pest control, conservation, and courses dealing with the impact of man on his environment. References are well chosen and the index is divided into 3 parts, listing separately diverse names and subjects, scientific names of species, including viruses, and Latin names.

I admired the readability of this excellent volume, a feature seldom found in technical books. Perhaps the fact that the author has written numerous articles for technical journals and that he has produced 6 courses on biological topics for the Australian television network have been responsible for this feature. The book would make a valuable addition to school libraries and public libraries everywhere.

Although the author modestly states that a book like his rapidly becomes out of date, this volume contains so much valuable information and presents it so well that it will be used as a reference in the years to come. Efficient pest control is urgently needed and if adequate awareness of population control becomes a reality, mankind might find a way of survival. Otherwise, even the best control methods will merely postpone the doom. Producing more food is a necessity but producing adequate amounts of food for an uncontrolled population of the world is an impossibility.

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